

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00154 081104Z

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9766

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 0154

FOR : NEA/EX WILLIAMSON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, SA

SUBJ: REPRESENTATION FUNDS

1. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A STATUS REPORT ON OUR REPRESENTATION EXPENDITURES AND AM DISTURBED TO FIND TOTAL CLAIMS THROUGH DECEMBER ENTERED THUS FAR FOR STATE OFFICERS EXCEED \$5,400 WITH ADDITIONAL CLAIMS FOR KNOWN FUNCTIONS STILL TO BE RECEIVED. MY OWN EXPENSES HAVE ALREADY EXCEEDED MY TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSES FOR FY 74.

2. A REVIEW OF OUR FUNDING SITUATION FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS INDICATES THAT OUR STATE BASE HAS BEEN \$6,800. THIS MEANS THAT ALREADY WE HAVE EXCEEDED THE AMOUNT WE MAY EXPECT THROUGH THE THIRD QUARTER. IT FURTHER MEANS THAT IN FY 74, FOR EXAMPLE, NO INCREASE WAS GIVEN BECAUSE OF THE DEVALUATION OF THE DOLLAR AND THE REVALUATION OF THE RIYAL; NOR WAS CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO INFLATIONARY COSTS, THE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF OFFICER ASSIGNED, OR THE INCREASE IN REPRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS. IN FY 75 PRICES CONTINUE TO RISE AND OUR OFFICER STAFF HAS BEEN INCREASED FURTHER. THE SITUATION IS FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY THE TREMENDOUS UPSURGE IN THE NUMBER OF BUSINESSMEN AND OTHER OFFICIAL VISITORS COMING TO SAUDI ARABIA DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS AND THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE THAT THE NUMBER OF SUCH VISITORS WILL DIMINISH THROUGH JUNE 30.

3. ACCORDINGLY, I AM ASKING THAT THE BUREAU INCREASE OUR
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 00154 081104Z

CURRENT YEAR'S BASE BY \$6,000 AND ADVISE ME IMMEDIATELY, OTHER-

WISE WE SOON WILL BE OBLIGED TO STOP ALL FURTHER OFFICIAL
ENTERTAINING UNTIL ADDITIONAL FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE. MORE AND
MORE OF OUR OFFICER ARE BEING ASKED TO ACCOMMODATE OFFICIAL
VISITORS IN THEIR HOMES BECAUSE OF THE SERVERE SHORTAGE OF
HOTEL SPACE AND NONE OF THIS IS REIMBURSABLE. I DO NOT BELIEVE
WE SHOULD BURDEN THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH HAVING TO ABSORB
THE COST OF OFFICIAL ENTERTAINMENT AS WELL.
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